



Features: Two students to compete in Monday's Boston Marathon

A&E: Editor critiques Ferrell's "Blades of Glory"

Opinions: Columnist "fails" at being a woman

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TAYLOR UNIVERSITY

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Student flicks premiere at film fest



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Senior Jonathan Bennett and juniors Tamara Shaya and Trevor Kight answer questions after the showing of their film "Amoral Code" during the Trojan Film Fest last night.

BY RANDY KIZER
CONTRIBUTOR

Student filmmakers have had a taste of stardom this week as their movies pre-

viewed in campus class-

rooms as part of this year's Trojan Film Festival.

With preliminary screenings complete, the winning films will play tonight in Rediger Auditorium and 11 films will receive awards. A limousine will deliver the films' casts and crews to the pre-ceremony party, which includes the traditional red carpet. Doors officially open at 9 p.m., with a \$2 admission fee for students.

This year's festival spans three days and, for the first time, Taylor Fort Wayne students submitted their work.

"We're struggling through a lot of new ideas this year, but we are very excited about how far it has come," Integration of Faith and Culture Vice President Jasmin Snyder said. Snyder, a junior, credits the communication department's growth in the last few years with helping to fuel the desire to expand the fest.

"After seeing [the film fes-

tival] for the first time last year, we saw an opportunity to make it even better," Communication Professor Kathy Bruner said. "The idea was to make it feel more like a festival and include several days of screenings and events."

Snyder was surprised and pleased with the student attendance in both screening rooms on Wednesday and Thursday.

"It's kind of a grassroots thing, with lots of people coming to see their friends' movies," Snyder said.

Sarah Lu is a freshman communication major and has attended showings on both nights.

"I love film, and coming to the festival is a great way to get involved in what's going on in the department," she said.

One highlight for many students is the question and answer sessions with the directors. Many of the student directors recounted funny

stories from the set, production nightmares and late-night editing sessions

"It's neat to talk to the directors and actors to see why and how they do things like pick shot angles," junior Lindsay Snider said. "They're all just so incredibly creative."

Senior Kyle Latino, principle actor in junior Jonathan Wolf's "Dark," recounts how after shooting a scene where he gets mugged in an alley, an elderly lady came by asking if someone should call the police.

"Even after showing her the video camera, it took some time to convince her that everything was all right," Latino said.

"Dark" and other films were projects from Digital Video Production class. But films such as "The Transformation of Reverend Mann" and "Lost at Land" were produced for upper-level classes and included larger budgets.

Student brokers invest TU money, beat S&P 500

BY RANDY KIZER
CONTRIBUTOR

Many brokers consider it tough to beat the average returns of the stock market and even harder to beat professional portfolio managers. But Taylor's Student Endowment Management Team has done it – quarter after quarter.

Working with real money in the real market, the eight students on the team are gaining hands-on stock market experience.

Taylor's endowment fund contains around \$45 million in donations handled

by several portfolio managers. Interest from this money is funneled yearly back into student programs.

Taylor created SEMT so students could manage a portion – around \$200,000 – of the fund.

Working closely with Associate Business Professor Scott Adams, the students learn about the entire investment process. After completing the required finance and economics classes, students can investigate companies and make a pitch to the rest of the team. If the proposal seems solid, then the team invests in the company,

with average investments of around 100 shares selling for an average of \$25 each.

Although SEMT only manages a tiny fraction of the endowment fund, its stocks have consistently performed well. The team has beaten the S&P 500, a standard measurement for average market performance, every recent quarter except for one.

Due to its high success rate, including the out-performance of the rest of the endowment fund's investments, the team is looking to increase its funding. With support from President Eugene Habecker, the team

made a request for more assets in its quarterly meeting with Taylor's Board of Directors. Since last year, the team's fund has increased by 50 percent, and three weeks ago SEMT received a new grant of \$25,000.

Already the team is planning how to invest its most recent grant.

"We are in the process of evaluating the performance of our Walgreen's stock to see if that would be a wise place to invest more funds," senior SEMT member Ryan Veldhuizen said.

Other options for the \$25,000 include investments

in Honda or Staples.

Senior Brad Livingston has worked on the SEMT for three semesters. While finance classes have hypothetical investment exercises, Livingston has found working on SEMT to be a significantly more tangible experience.

"It has provided one of the closest links between the classroom and the real world," Livingston said. " ... It has been an amazing experience to rub shoulders with the leadership of Taylor."

Veldhuizen has also found the experience rewarding.

"The reason I decided to participate was for the prac-

tical knowledge and the opportunity to interact with Professor Adams and the other students," he said.

SEMT's success has attracted outside attention. Several other colleges have shown interest in creating similar programs on their campuses.

SEMT also asked Habecker for ways to increase student involvement in managing the endowment fund.

One proposed idea involves creating a second student team that would be open to students who are not business or economics majors.

NSLC to challenge students to have 'Naked' leadership

BY HILLARY DURIE
CONTRIBUTOR

Planners for this weekend's National Student Leadership Conference want to encourage leaders to get "Naked."

Conference organizers hope to strip away cultural presumptions about leadership and encourage students to offer their abilities, unadorned with false pretenses, to God, according to the Taylor Web site.

"Our hope is that this conference will educate and help us, as students and Christians, [to] adequately interpret the culture and see how we have perverted leadership," senior Jonathan Chacko, vice president of leadership development, said. "We hope to strip away the clothes of leadership."

According to the NSLC Web site, Christians should expose themselves before God so his glory can shine through their leadership.

"The theme 'Naked' is one that engages people to dig deeper into the heart of leadership," conference participant junior Tamara Shaya said. "I'm thrilled to see how

this time refines students' hearts and minds as they discover the complete leader Christ called them to be."

NSLC will feature the Rev. Dwight Knight and the Rev. Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran as keynote speakers.

Knight, who has authored two volumes of "Lessons Through the Word," serves as co-founder and executive director of Challenge Ministries International, an organization that focuses on discipleship and fostering leaders for the next generation. As an elder-at-large, he works with elders in churches throughout North America.

Straten-McSparran, program director for the Los Angeles Film Studies Center, earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy from Bethel University and has a master's of divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. She was the founding pastor of TRIBE of Los Angeles church and also worked as Mid-Wilshire Christian School's director.

Other NSLC activities include tomorrow morning's bagel and latte bar and various workshops, including three swapshops, which are sessions designed for stu-

dents in campus leadership positions to share their experiences and encourage one another. Also, the Dancing Our Prayers Native American Dance Team, sponsored by AHANA, performs at 9 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union.

NSLC will end Sunday after the fourth keynote address and an optional 11 a.m. lunch.

Shaya is looking forward to hearing the speakers' views on leadership.

"I'm especially excited to hear Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran speak at NSLC," Shaya said. "Her background in film and theology is one that students can learn from, especially in a world that often lacks redemptive media."

Chacko encourages students to attend NSLC and take advantage of the opportunity to hear gifted speakers address leadership from a Christian perspective.

NSLC costs \$25 for Taylor students and \$105 for visitors. Students can register at 2 p.m. today at Rediger Auditorium or register online at www.taylor.edu/nslc/conference.

Students minister to people worldwide over spring break



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Junior Ashley Whited watches over Zachary, the son of a wizard, as he eats a hamburger at Sunsplash Park in Daytona Beach. Students were able to minister to Zachary's father, who is currently homeless, throughout the entire week. The team initially set up their tent on the beach, where they handed out free food for a day, until they were shut down by the Beach Patrol after a nearby vendor filed a complaint. After much prayer, the team was able to relocate to a nearby park, where they continued with their ministry. The team handed out food and played volleyball, while also speaking with residents and vacationers about God and their religious beliefs. At night, several members of the team did street evangelism on the strip.

See page 2 for more photos from the other spring break trips.

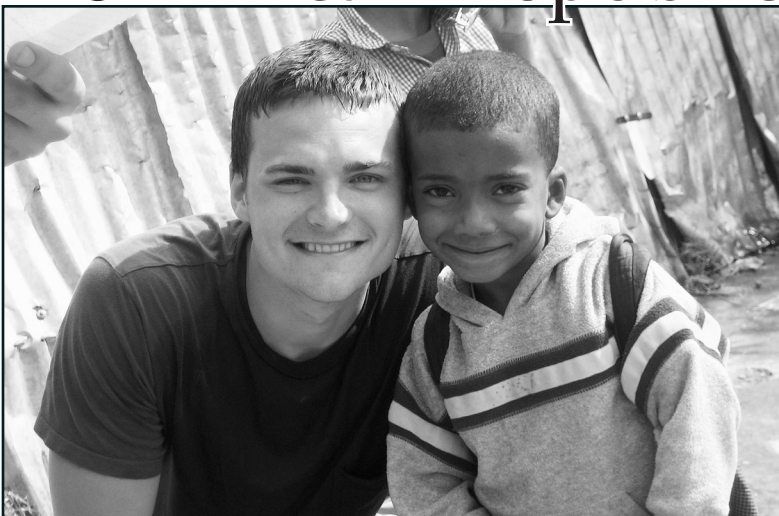
Daytona Beach

Junior Brett Fox speaks with Jay, a homeless man living in Daytona Beach at Sunsplash Park. The Daytona team handed out free food on the beach in the morning while talking to people about God. At night many of the members evangelized on the streets.

Photo courtesy Timmy Huynh



Dominican Republic (KA)



Senior Paul Holliday embraces young Giballo as the Dominican Republic Kids Alive team entertained the children with songs, skits, puppets, games and crafts at the day school in Constanza. The Kids Alive team also worked side-by-side with several Dominicans while completing several construction projects for the orphanage.

Photo courtesy Ellen Koch

Dominican Republic (SI)



Juniors Bret Burchard, Jody Tyner, Josh Brooks and Dave Adams carry some boys as they walk through the boys' community behind the baseball field where they worked. The team, which partnered with Students International, spent their time in the community doing construction, sharing their testimonies and playing sports with the kids.

Photo courtesy Quinn White

New Orleans



Juniors Emily Bergstrom and Krista Hoff and freshman Pieter Perrine work on a house in New Orleans. With 93 students and staff members, the team worked with Habitat for Humanity and other organizations to move about 10 families closer to once again having a roof over their heads.

Photo courtesy Ryan Anderson

Russia

Freshman Erin Kingma plays with Christina at the Vladimire Children's Home. The team held vacation Bible school at three different orphanages in Russia and also helped out with construction at one of the orphanages.

Photo courtesy Erin Kingma



New York City



Freshman Karin Case and junior Lauren Wiest lead some kids in a wild chorus of "Praise Ye the Lord!" during a VBS program. Nine students ministered to the residents of New York City, leading a vacation Bible school for Chinese-American children or helping out in a soup kitchen.

Photo courtesy Eric Seidelman

Mexico



Freshman Megan Sutherland poses with a 105-year-old woman who just received a pair of glasses. The Mexico Lions Club spring break team spent eight days in Ixtapan de la Sal, located two hours south of Mexico City. During the trip, team members fitted over 4,600 people, ages 5 to 105, with eye glasses and distributed toys to under-privileged children.

Photo courtesy Megan Sutherland

Florida/Bahamas

Chorale member sophomore Jonathan Goble ministers to a Bahamian child on the Chorale's spring break mission tour to Florida and the Bahamas. The choral group, under the direction of Professor Joann Rediger, ministered in churches, schools and a retirement community.

Photo courtesy Jordan Bolte



Jamaica



Senior Jake Edgerton awards a TU soccer jersey to a boy from Copsi, a home for delinquent boys, after a soccer match. The Jamaica trip primarily consisted of music and drama ministry in churches and schools. The team also reached out to the handicapped, orphaned and sick children and adults.

Photo courtesy Katie Brady

Casa Patricia Apartments

Are you looking for off-campus housing in the near future? Would you like to earn rent credit? We have an opening for a student to earn rent concessions for leasing apartments. For housing or to apply as a leasing consultant, contact Nancy at 1-317-664-4735.

HAGGARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



Angie Horn-Andreu, M.Div., '07

Director, High School and College Ministries, Forest Home, Forest Falls, California

LESSON LEARNED: No question threatens God.

MY STORY: Imagine this – a 16-year-old comes up to you and asks how God, who is supposed to be loving, allowed his friend to die in a car accident. How do you begin to answer this? I'll tell you how I do it.

To learn more about Angie's inspiring story and explore the theology programs offered:

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CALL (800) TALK-APU
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Spring Break '07

Ferrell returns to comedy in 'Blades of Glory'

BY JOSH PORTER
A&E EDITOR

Two weekends ago, Will Ferrell's rabid fan base had a new reason to visit theaters: "Blades of Glory," Ferrell's latest comedy, premiered.

The film does not disappoint those eager to see it. "Blades of Glory" continues Ferrell's tradition of movies involving ridiculous situations in sports and recreation ("Kicking and Screaming," "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby"). The story involves two rivals in male figure skating, Chazz Michael Michaels (Ferrell) and Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder), banned for life from the men's single competition after a disastrous incident.

After almost working out their differences, the duo decides to compete together as a doubles team. Several implausible situations and a few gay jokes ensue.

This type of comedy tends to rely on shock value, setting the bar lower with every joke. "Blades" manages to keep the humor somewhat fresh with its outlandish situations and dialogue and keeps the bar right where it should be—for a PG-13 movie.

While the filmmakers could have made "Blades of Glory" one big homosexual sight gag, they chose instead to



"Blades of Glory" opened nationwide on March 30, and has claimed the No. 1 spot in the box office two weekends in a row. The film received a PG-13 rating for crude and sexual humor, language, a comic violent image and some drug references.

Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

vary the film's crude humor. The first few trailers for the film definitely emphasize the gay jokes, but in reality these are kept to a minimum. The jokes that are present do make the pair's skate scenes awkward, but the movie only has two such scenes, which come across as more ridiculous than homophobic.

Like any Ferrell comedy, the success of "Blades of Glory" depends on its supporting talent, since the filmmakers did not develop the main characters. Ron Burgundy certainly made a hilarious "Anchorman," but the movie would have fizzled without his Channel Four news team. "Blades" is full of similar,

perfectly chosen supporting actors and actresses.

Heder as effeminate figure skater MacElroy is the perfect whiney sidekick to Ferrell's chauvinistic macho man. Claiming generic comedic roles ("School for Scoundrels," "The Benchwarmers") since "Napoleon Dynamite," his "Blades" character is re-

freshingly unique.

The filmmakers cast Will Arnett ("Arrested Development," "RV") and "Saturday Night Live's" Amy Poehler—married in real life—as the villainous brother-sister ice skating duo. This decision was a stroke of genius, as both have had impressive comedy experience. Each

of their scenes in "Blades" is hilarious; the filmmakers should have given them more screen time.

Other minor characters worth mentioning include an obsessed MacElroy fan, played by Nick Swardson ("Grandma's Boy"), and MacElroy's love interest, played by Jenna Fischer ("Slither"). Swardson plays a creepy character in all his movies, and this one is no exception, but he's absolutely hilarious once viewers get past his craziness. Fischer has gained enormous popularity as Pam Beesly in "The Office" and proves with this role that she can master film.

While "Blades" contains some hilarious one-liners and wacky situations, the humor seems scarce and forced at times. The role of Michaels was written for Ferrell, but doesn't leave him enough room to improvise. With all the ridiculous situations, the film seems to lend itself to improv acting, but the ad-libbed scenes are over too quickly.

But "Blades of Glory" is full of entertaining characters and situations, and all the actors seem to have a blast in their quirky roles. It's certainly good enough to tide over Ferrell's fans until 2008, when his next script premieres in "Step Brothers." (Movie Rating: 7 out of 10)

The Snappy Comeback: a Q&A for A&E

BY JOSH PORTER
A&E EDITOR

Q: Dear Josh Porter, I have resisted asking this question for weeks, but it is plaguing the depths of my soul. Your entertainment opinions are highly sought after and known to be sound. I hope that your answer can relieve me of my suffering.

You see, I happen to be a closet Foreigner and Styx fan. Yes ... I know ... please stop snickering.

On the basis of this information, my question is thus: Why is it okay to love Journey and sing along to "Don't Stop Believin'" at the top of your lungs, but not okay to do the same with "I Want To Know What Love Is"? Why is it that Journey is a cool 1980s band, but Styx is thought of as kind of lame?

I'm tired of hiding my love of synthesizers and power ballads. Is that so wrong?

- Jenna Hanchey, senior

A: Thanks for the question, Jenna. I know that was hard for you, but opening up is a big step.

Now, I'm no expert on Styx—1980s music is not one of my strong suits. The performance of "Come Sail Away" during Nostalgia Night (which was both emotional and inspiring) is the extent of my exposure to the band. However, yours is just one example of the bigger issue of musical elitism.

The condition of the popular music industry is hilarious to me. A man who enjoys the lyrical musings of James Blunt will be badgered to no end, whereas it's perfectly fine for him to sing along with Prince, the most effeminate and ridiculous character in pop history. Who decided all this? Probably Ashton Kutcher, as a massive prank on America.

There really doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to

what makes a song or artist popular and acceptable. Just look at Simple Plan. I mean really look at them. Why are they popular? What force has kept them afloat through three albums since 2002? The band is living proof that no relationship between popularity and talent exists.

I know what you're going through, Jenna. See, I have this "friend" who really likes JoJo's music and is also a big fan of Enrique Iglesias. While

some may balk at such strange musical tastes, the best thing my "friend" can do is not to give a rat's rump.

Most people will hopefully recognize that everyone has their musical

indulgences and accept you as you are. Those who don't recognize this probably wouldn't know a good song if it approached them with a Spanish guitar and asked to be their "Hero."

But that's the great thing

about music, especially right now. It's infinitely broad and open-ended.

While Simple Plan's popularity may throw me into fits of depression, many people enjoy a good mindless punk beat. And while some may think Enrique's passionate Latin serenades are for chicks, plenty of men listen to his music for enjoyment (maybe to get brownie points with the ladies).

The last thing we should do as individuals is change our music taste to fit the norm. There's a reason Music is the first category under Favorites on your Facebook profile. Your music tastes reflect who you are. Nobody cares if you like Fall Out Boy, but tell them you're completely addicted to Regis Philbin's Christmas album, and now you've got a conversation starter.

So sing along to "Don't Stop Believin'" if you want, but try belting out some Styx tunes every now and then. Some may think you're weird, but weird is just the opposite of boring.

There's a reason Music is the first category under Favorites on your Facebook profile. Your music tastes reflect who you are.

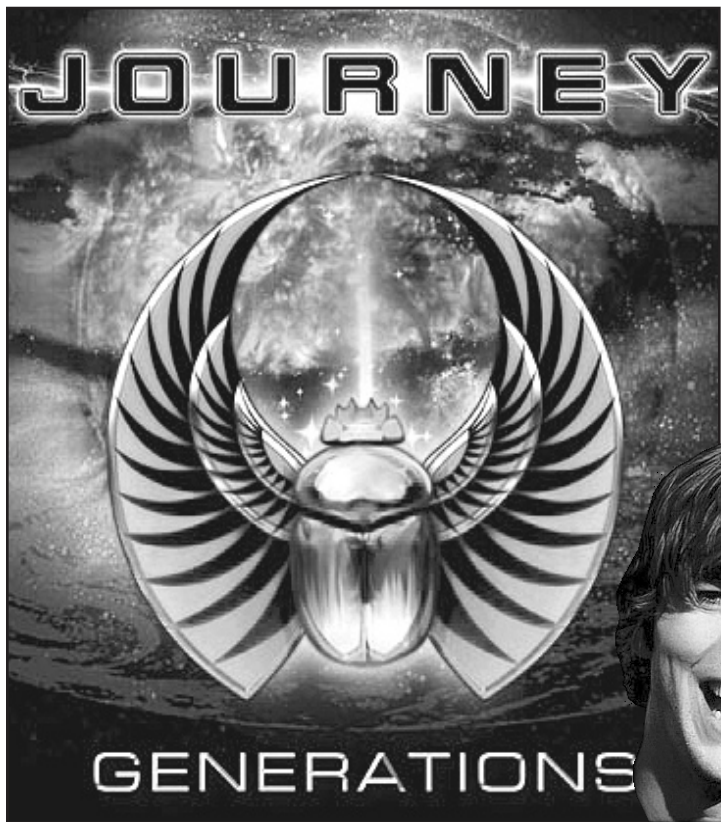


Photo courtesy of frontiers.it

Journey clearly did something right to be considered a classic 1980s band. Styx, on the other hand, is and has been the subject of great ridicule. Who can say how the situation ended up this way? If anyone can, it's probably Ashton Kutcher. He's smarter than he looks.

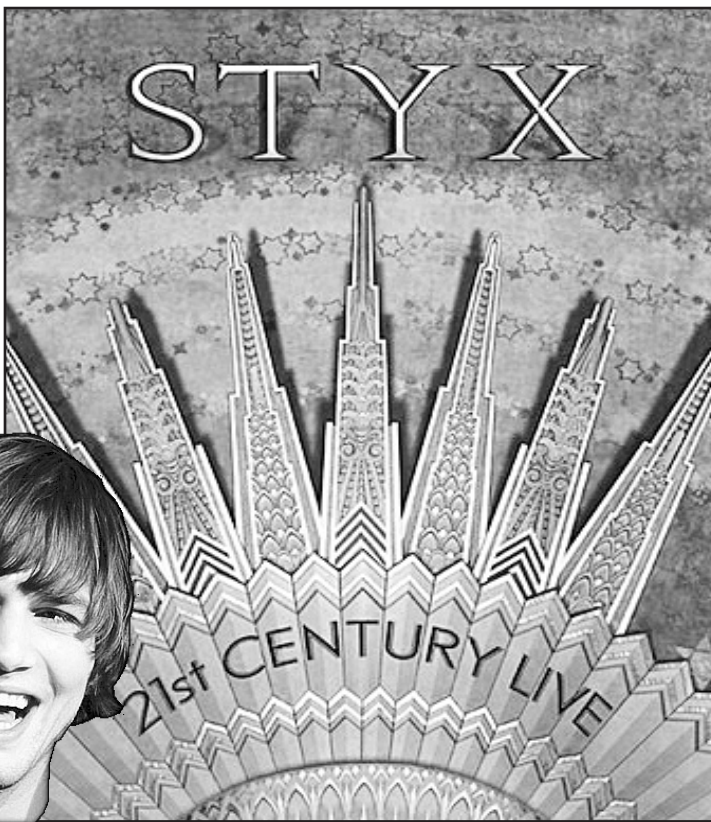


Photo courtesy of stuff.co.nz

Photo courtesy of cduniverse.com

A thrilling conclusion for the Wind Ensemble



Photo by Ellen Koch

Wind Ensemble members Bethany Johnson, Krista Hanson, Kayla Cange and April Bridgman focus on the conductor as they play.

BY LAURA RIZZO
CONTRIBUTOR

After five days of traveling, Taylor's Wind Ensemble concluded its tour Wednesday night in Rediger Auditorium as Professor Albert Harrison conducted the 45-member ensemble through six dynamic compositions.

The ensemble performed in Cincinnati and Middletown, Ohio, as well as New Albany, Muncie and Washington, Ind.

"It was so relaxing for me to listen to the music as I watched my friends do something they love," senior Allie Burbrink said after attending Wednesday's concert.

The concert began with an introduction by Harrison followed by the fast-paced and dramatic piece "Intrada: Adoration and Praise" by Claude Smith.

The music washed over the audience as rain pounded on the roof of the chapel. The players, dressed professionally in black, performed on a stage decorated with large green plants that complemented their gold and black.

The performance continued with "Festive Overture" by Dmitri Shostakovich and "Jericho, Behind the Wall," a piece by David Weirich.

One trumpet player, fresh-

man Ronnie Whitacre, represented Joshua during this Weirich piece, playing his instrument offstage.

"It was really refreshing to listen to such beautiful music," sophomore Jon Crider said. "The performers were in fine form."

The evening continued with "Blessed Are They" from "A German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms, "Triumph Spirit" by Timothy Johnson and "Inventions from the Sacred Harp" by James Curnow.

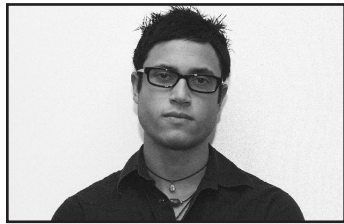
"We were more comfortable this time," Hargrave said. "We had more energy [this time] because we'd played the music so many times before."

According to Crider, the ensemble's comfort with the music was evident.

"All of the solos were well done," he said. "It was very evident that all of the students put a lot of work into preparing this tour."

At Wednesday's concert, Harrison also recognized outstanding students and the ensemble's seniors. For the five graduating members of the ensemble, this was their second-to-last concert.

The Wind Ensemble will perform this year's last concert in May at graduation.



BY MARC BELCASTRO
OPINIONS EDITOR

In his famous poem called “The Waste Land,” T.S. Eliot said, “April is the cruelest month.” This well-known line partially contributed to the Academy of American Poets’ designating April as National Poetry Month.

Some, such as Mark Strand when he writes, “Ink runs from the corners of my mouth. / There is no happiness like mine. / I have been eating poetry,” in his poem “Eating Poetry,” have found an unparalleled richness and a seductive mystique in poetry, while others surely have not. (See Adrian Mitchell: “Most people ignore most poetry because most poetry ignores most people.”)

I believe poetry has tremendous value, both as a corporate artifact, publicly accessible, and as a private industry, a personal business for the dictations of our conscious, or perhaps subconscious, selves.

Some understand poetry

as an art that involves self-expression — others, self-discovery.

Poetry “should strike the reader as a wording of his own highest thoughts, and appear almost as a remembrance,” according to the 19th-century English Romantic poet John Keats (a favorite of mine).

Another reason poetry holds a particular appeal for me is, in remarkable concision oftentimes, it transforms itself into a philosophical or theological utterance. In short, it teaches; it expresses, or points us toward, truth.

This property of many poems, among other considerations, is what leads me to call a poem beautiful, elegant or great.

When the aesthetic of a poem betters me in some fashion or another, it is virtually impossible for me to believe it is anything other than exceptional.

Here is one of my favorite poems, one by the American poet Walt Whitman. The title is “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer.”

*When I heard the learn’d astronomer,
When the proofs, the figures,
were ranged in columns before me,*

*When I was shown the charts
and diagrams, to add, divide,
and measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer
where he lectured with much
applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable I
became tired and sick,
Till rising and gliding out I
wander’d off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air,
and from time to time,
Look’d up in perfect silence at
the stars.*

(Because of the way the text is printed here, I unfortunately had to “ignore” Whitman’s line breaks. I trust this would not try his patience too much.)

Maybe you can take your hat off to National Poetry Month by studying the vigor and the intricacies and the reverence of the Psalms, or perhaps that of the wisdom of Proverbs or the Sermon on the Mount.

You do not necessarily have to regard them as poetry in order to temporarily read them as art or peruse their words to extract aesthetic enrichment.

You may even encounter a novelty — a verse or a phrase that, in fact, strikes you as the Holy Spirit’s highest thoughts.

What it doesn't mean to be a woman



BY AMY WATKINS
COLUMNIST

When I started writing articles for The Echo last semester, I promised myself I would never write anything about gender roles.

Unfortunately, I am now prepared to eat my words due to a most distressing realization: I have failed at being a woman.

Yes, I am afraid it is true. I do not embody the traits females are supposed to have. I have never cried during a chick flick or loved the color pink. I am not naturally drawn to humans under the age of five, and I have no desire to get a pedicure. In short, I am a failure.

I have tried to get help for this apparent feminine deficiency. Last summer, I read the first two chapters of “Captivating,” in which I learned all females fantasize about twirling skirts and navigating their family down the river in a canoe. All I can say is I clearly missed the boat.

Women are meant to be objects of beauty that turn males into love-crazed, brainless automatons, or so people have often led me to believe. But in my 20 years on this planet, I have managed to avoid serious romantic relationships with the opposite sex. Could I have forgotten to release my pheromones into the air?

On a recent trip home, my grandmother asked me if I had a boyfriend yet. When I replied that I did not and was not really looking, she asked me if I would prefer a girlfriend. From this, I can only assume it is better for a woman to be a lesbian than to be single.

For better or worse, this confusion is not limited to myself. It seems many females on campus have lost track of how they should be conducting themselves.

When several women in one of my classes said they did not have a burning desire for children in the near future, this took the professor aback. Apparently the maternal instinct has not been sufficiently clouding our logic and putting our career aspirations on hold.

Luckily, Taylor has tried to help us out with speed dating and “singles mingles”

open houses. I am beginning to rethink my passions for football, action movies and political debating. A few more lectures on complementarian values and I will be baking cookies with the girls in English. (Disclaimer: As “Seinfeld” would say, “Not that there’s anything wrong with that . . .”)

Allow me to set aside my sarcastic nature — another flaw in my feminine beauty — to explain what I mean by all of this. I am sick and tired of hearing about what a man or a woman is “supposed to be.” Is a woman any less of a woman if she studies chemical engineering? Is a man any less of a man if he does not spend an hour in the gym every day?

I do not like the idea of gender roles because they put people in boxes. They place unrealistic expectations on each of us. Is there really such a lack of self-image problems on this campus that we need to add gender ideals to the equation?

Maybe this makes me an egalitarian, or maybe it makes me a feminist. I can think of worse things to be called. Just do not say I am a failure at being a woman — I have far more important things at which to fail.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disarming the atheist: rationality vs. emotion

BY ALEX FRANK

Attending Taylor exposes you, at least intellectually, to lots of powerful and varied objections to the legitimacy of Christianity. They are covered in classes such as Foundations of Christian Thought and Contemporary Christian Belief, both of which are graduation requirements.

Now, taking these classes and hearing these high-intellect objections to the rationality of belief in miracles, say, or the resurrection of Christ, might frighten you into thinking that every atheist you meet upon graduation will come at you with high-minded, well-thought-out attacks on Christianity, and you will be helpless to defend your own beliefs.

I am here to tell you this is not the case.

As students in a respected Christian, higher-learning institution, it is only natural for us to think that everybody puts as much thought and critical revision into their belief system as we do.

Unfortunately, it seems many “atheists” in the real world are atheists simply because they are seeking to

justify the lifestyle they are already living.

They are uncomfortable with the teachings of the Bible, and so discredit it with such arguments as: “Well, the Bible contradicts itself all over the place, so it’s not true,” “The Bible is just a loose translation of a hodgepodge of unverified old documents” or “The Bible preaches hatred and intolerance, and I can’t believe in something like that.”

Well, here’s the thing about those arguments: They are not true. Any biblical scholar worth his salt can discredit such claims with ease.

The thing is, the atheist doesn’t ask the Bible scholar. In fact, he doesn’t bother asking anyone who may be able to call him out. He simply persists in his beliefs because they’re comfortable.

Now don’t misconstrue me. I don’t mean to say all atheists are simpletons who would be converted to Christianity if we simply take the time to stoop down and impart our wisdom on them.

I am saying, however, that many people only focus on living their lives from day to day and are unable to

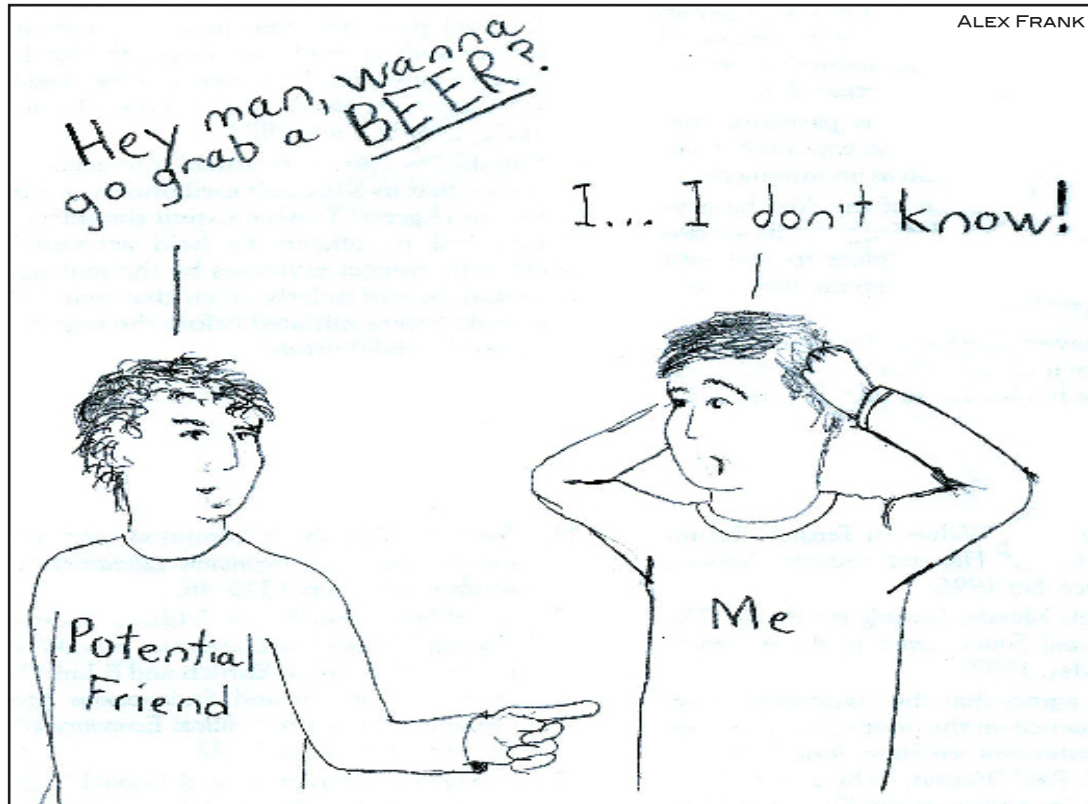
give serious thought to what may happen in five years, let alone an eternity.

Many atheists don’t believe in God because they have negative impressions of Christians. But this does not necessarily mean they were victims of hypocritical behavior; often they view themselves as believers in the rational and empirical, and Christians as emotionally driven beings more prone to “feel the spirit of God” than use their brains.

As graduates of Taylor University, it is our job to demonstrate that this does not have to be the case. A belief in God, as the ultimate truth, can and must be supported rationally as well as emotionally.

You may not be able to convince the atheist, but by showing the holes in his beliefs, you can at least force him to accept the fact that his beliefs aren’t so airtight as he presumed.

You can demonstrate that Christianity is a worldview that is completely rational and livable, and that the atheist, in fact, is the one who’s living with his logic suspended.



Out from under the protective guidance of the LTC, previously abstract moral dilemmas take on a frightening new reality.

The Echo

Taylor University

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The mission of *The Echo* is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University’s campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. *The Echo* also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be sent to echo@tayloru.edu by **3 p.m. Wednesday** and be no longer than **400 words**. Due to volume, not all opinion articles received can be printed. Opinions should be kept as concise as possible. The Echo reserves the right to edit submissions for length and content.

TU loses two heartbreakers

No. 10 Spring Arbor defeats Trojans twice by one run

By **ANDREW NEEL**
SPORTS EDITOR

Impressive wins and disappointing defeats – Taylor baseball experienced both during a hectic spring break, in which the Trojans played nine games in seven days.

Upon returning to Upland, the Trojans resumed their Mid-Central Conference season Tuesday with two home losses to No. 10 (NAIA Division II) Spring Arbor (24-1, 12-0 MCC).

Taylor (19-17, 5-6) had a 5-4 record over the break, in which the Trojans defeated NCAA Division I Charleston Southern 5-3. The week had some low points as well, however, as the team lost games to smaller schools such as Voorhees and Southern Polytech.

“Whether we’re playing a big school like Charleston Southern or a smaller school like Voorhees, it comes down to execution and doing the little things right,” junior Drew Severns said.

“It was definitely a huge confidence builder to beat (Charleston Southern),” freshman Ryan Boden said. “Everyone was working together and we had good chemistry, but we need to work on our consistency.”

Taylor was competitive in both of its games against Spring Arbor, but the Trojans made costly mistakes in both

contests and lost each game by one run.

The Trojans’ offense out-hit the Cougars’ offense 7-5 in the first game, but Taylor’s pitchers gave up seven walks and hit one batter to allow Spring Arbor to escape with a 4-3 win.

All four of the Cougars’ runs were scored by walked batters. Freshman Nathan Hillery led Taylor’s offense by going 3-for-3, including a two-run home run in the bottom of the fifth inning to tie the game.

“I knew we’d have to play well [to beat Spring Arbor], and they just out-executed us,” Taylor Coach Kyle Gould said. “We had great chances to win both games; we just didn’t do it.”

In the second game, Taylor was led by the strong pitching performance of Boden, who threw all seven innings, did not give up any earned

“Whether we’re playing a big school ... or a smaller school ... it comes down to execution and doing the little things right.”
-Drew Severns-

runs and struck out four Spring Arbor batters. The Trojans’ fielders made several errors, however, which allowed the Cougars to squeak past Taylor 2-1.

Hillery again had a strong



Photo by Timmy Huynh

Freshman Ryan Boden pitches for Taylor in the Trojans' March 29 game against St. Francis. Taylor fell to the Cougars 5-0 in the first game of the double-header. The Trojans defeated St. Francis 8-3 in the second game.

performance at the plate, going 1-for-2 and contributing Taylor’s only RBI for the game with a double in the bottom of the second inning to give Taylor the lead.

“All of our young guys have stepped in and performed for us this season,” senior Mike Bentley said. “I think they have gained more confidence in themselves

now that they have over 35 games under their belt.”

The Trojans are working on building momentum heading into the postseason. Taylor has only nine games remaining before the MCC playoffs in May.

“We have [shown] at different times throughout the season that we can play well in all areas of the game,” se-

nior Tad Litwiller said. “If we

“Everyone ... had good chemistry, but we need to work on our consistency.”
-Ryan Boden-

can put everything together down the final stretch of the season, we have the potential to go a long way.”

The Trojans have three home games next week. Taylor hosts Huntington at 1 p.m. Saturday, Urbana at 4 p.m. Monday and Goshen at 1 p.m. Thursday.

Editor’s Note: Thursday’s baseball game at Huntington was postponed due to rain and will be played at 4 p.m. today.

Women's lacrosse gears up for big weekend

By **HEATHER ARCANO**
CONTRIBUTOR

The Taylor women’s lacrosse team is preparing for its final weekend of action, in which it plays four games – three at home – with a division title on the line.

Taylor belongs to Division 2, B League of the Women’s Collegiate Lacrosse League (WCLL), along with six other teams, including Indiana University and Ball State. Taylor (5-2, 3-1 Division 2) is currently tied with Purdue for second in the division.

Tomorrow Taylor travels to division-leader Indiana University.

On Sunday, Taylor hosts Purdue University at 9 a.m. and University of Cincinnati at 11:30 a.m. in division games, as well as DePaul at 3:15 p.m.

Indiana also plays division games this weekend, and a combination of Lady Trojan wins and Lady Hoosier losses could result in a Division 2 title for Taylor.

“Playing four games in one weekend isn’t going to be easy,” sophomore Bethany Saxe said, “but this is what we’ve been preparing for all season.”

On March 25, the team won two of three games it played at St. Mary’s College.

The first game started slowly against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, but the Lady Trojans gained a two-point lead by the end of the first half. The lead held until the end of the game, which Taylor won 10-8.

Butler then fell to Taylor 5-4. Both Butler and Taylor belong to the same division, so the win was especially important for the title hopes of the Lady Trojans, according to junior Shawna Finger.

Playing in its third game of the day, Taylor lost 5-4 in overtime to Western Kentucky University.

“We were missing two players [at St. Mary’s], but

we all played twice as hard,” sophomore Allison Reed said. “We planned ahead what we needed to do since we would be missing some key players. Lacrosse is more than physical activity ... mental preparation was absolutely necessary.”

Earlier in the season, the Lady Trojans earned wins against Western Kentucky, Ball State and Augustana College. Oakland University handed the Lady Trojans an 11-7 loss.

Several of the teams in the league, including Taylor, face many games with few players. During a lacrosse game, 12 players, including the

goalie, must take the field for two 25-minute halves. Taylor’s roster has 13 players, but often only 12 travel to a game.

“The lack of players only built our chemistry as a team,” Reed said. “It’s much easier to get inside the mind of your teammates and expect their next move on the field when they’re not constantly changing.”

Senior Amy Reid said the play of the upperclassmen has been vital to the team. “They have really stepped up into key positions with confidence and have been instrumental in our wins against some tough schools.”

Men's track wins invitational, women take fourth

By **ANNA DANIELS**
STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Chris Leman’s “double-duty” performance in the 1,500 and 800-meter races and senior Lolly York’s national-qualifying time in the 5,000 helped lead Taylor’s track teams last weekend in Clarksville, Tenn. at the Austin Peay Governors Invitational.

Coach Ted Bowers called Leman’s performances his best double-duty meet of the year, saying the men’s team “easily” won last weekend’s Austin Peay Governors Invitational in Clarksville, Tenn. The women’s team placed fourth out of seven teams.

Leman had an eighth-place time of 4 minutes, 15.79 seconds in the 1,500 and a second-place, 1:59.49-run in the 800 and finished before his freshmen teammates David Brooks and Andrew Budd. Brooks placed ninth in the 1500 with a time of 4:16.66, while Budd placed 11th with

a time of 4:22.70. Brooks also finished the 800 in 2:03.89 for a ninth-place finish.

Coach Bowers called the 5,000 the best race of the day for the women’s team. York qualified provisionally for May nationals with a time of 18:17.28, and junior Elise Knapp set a personal record in the event.

York, still recovering from an IT band injury, said she was not pleased with her time, although she placed second in the event.

Knapp placed fourth with a time of 19:06.48, which was 20 seconds off her best time.

“It was a really cold day, so I was kind of nervous, but it ended up being really good,” she said. “Earlier in the week I decided to focus really hard. I was really mentally prepared for it, so I was happy I was physically able to do it.”

Knapp’s personal goal is to break the 19-minute mark.

The 4x400 relay team of sophomore Hannah Tabb,

freshman Tabitha Bogue and juniors Becky Hegelein and Vanessa Fereshetian placed fourth with a time of 4:28.72.

“It was the slowest time of the season for my split time, [so it was] a kind of discouraging race,” Bogue said. “It was cold and windy, which was kind of a shock — we weren’t really expecting it.”

Fereshetian agreed with Bogue’s assessment of the race.

“It was a decent run, nothing stellar, [but] we weren’t too disappointed,” Fereshetian said. “It was kind of hard, because the 4x400 is at the end of the meet.”

The track teams also competed at the Emory Classic in Atlanta over spring break. The men’s and women’s teams both placed fourth out of 16 schools at the meet.

The Trojans’ next meet is the Little State Championships today and tomorrow in Indianapolis, Ind.



Photo provided by Deb Best

Freshman Alyssa Johnson runs in the women’s 1,500-meter at the Emory Classic in Atlanta, Ga.

Trojans Sports

(Home games in bold)

Track (Men)

*4th of 16, Emory Classic
1st of 7, Austin Peay Invite*

(Women)

*4th of 16, Emory Classic
4th of 7, Austin Peay Invite*

Upcoming events:

Friday-Saturday
at Little State Championships

Indianapolis, Ind. TBA

Baseball (19-17, 5-6)

*(0-2) at Marian
(2-0) vs. St. Francis
(2-0) at Atlanta Christian
(0-2) at Voorhees
W, 5-3 Charleston Southern
(1-1) at Southern Poly Tech
(1-1) at Toccoa Falls
(0-2) vs. Spring Arbor*

Upcoming games:

Friday
at Huntington 4 p.m.

Saturday

Huntington 1 p.m.

Monday

Urbana 4 p.m.

Thursday

Goshen 1 p.m.

Softball (3-16, 0-2)

*W, 7-4 Siena Heights
(0-2) vs. Anderson
(0-2) at Warner Southern
(0-2) at Eckard College
(1-1) at Palm Beach Atlantic
(0-2) at Northwood
(0-2) vs. Bethel
(Thursday’s Huntington game postponed due to rain)*

Upcoming games:

Saturday

at St. Mary’s of the Woods
1 p.m.

Tuesday

at Grace 3 p.m.

Wednesday

Indiana Wesleyan 3 p.m.